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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/993,732	11/21/2001	William Robert Hanson	PALM-3690	9445

7590 07/15/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

CHANG, YEAN HSI

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/993,732	HANSON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Yean-Hsi Chang	2835	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11, 13-21, 23 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 13-21, 23 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.  
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 13-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chang (US 6,390,855 B1).

Chang teaches a device (2, fig. 5) comprising:

- Circuitry (22, fig. 4) for coupling said device to a personal digital assistant (1, fig. 5) (claim 13)
- Circuitry (20, fig. 4) for performing a second function (receiving expansion card communicating with said PDA; see col. 2, lines 41-45) synergistically with a function performed by said personal digital assistant (claim 13)
- Wherein said device is sized and shaped to serve as a cover for a expansion card port (14, fig. 5) in a housing (1, fig. 5) of said personal digital assistant (claim 13)

- Wherein said device performs a first function of enclosing an opening (at 14, fig. 5, not numbered) (claim 13)
- Wherein said device is removeably, slideably coupled to said housing (see col. 2, lines 34-37) (claims 14 and 16)

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 15, 17-19 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view of Ditzik (US 5,983,073).

Chang discloses the claimed invention except the device being pivotably or hingeably coupled to the housing, and comprising a speaker, an antenna, external connectors, or a display.

Ditzik teaches a device (2, fig. 1) including a speaker (30, fig. 1), an antenna (32, fig. 1), external connectors (27 and 28, fig. 1), or a display (4, fig. 1), and being pivotably or hingeably coupled to a housing (9, fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Chang with the device taught by Ditzik so that the device could have a speaker for audio output, or an antenna for wireless

communication, external connectors for receiving expanded functionality, or a display for a video output, and could be opened simply by pivoting or rotating.

5. Claims 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view of Ikenouchi et al. (US 5,835,863).

Chang discloses the claimed invention except the device the device illuminating or vibrating for alerting a user.

Ikenouchi teaches an illuminating alerting device (9, fig. 1; also see col. 2, lines 22-26) and a vibrating alerting device (10, fig. 1; also see col. 2, lines 33-35) for alerting a user.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Chang with the alerting devices taught by Ikenouchi for the purpose of alerting the user when audible signal is not suitable at certain locations.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 1-11 are allowable.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The best prior art of record, Cargin Jr. et al. (US 6,023,147), Ross et al. (US 5,859,628), Ditzik (US 5,983,073), Ikenouchi (US 5,835,863), Luen et al. (US 6,430,644 B1), Ma (US 5,058,045), Chang (US 6,390,855 B1), and Misawa (US 2002/0196599

A1), taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or reasonably suggest a personal digital assistant comprising: a housing having an opening for inserting an expansion card within the volume of said housing, a bus and a processor disposed in said housing, a connector disposed within said opening for connecting said expansion card to said bus, and a cover for said opening, being coupleable to said housing, performing a first function of enclosing said opening, said expansion card and said connector, and performing a second function in addition to said first function as set forth in claims 1-11.

***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13-21 and 23-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

***Correspondence***

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yean-Hsi Chang whose telephone number is (703) 306-5798. The examiner can normally be reached on 07:30-16:00.

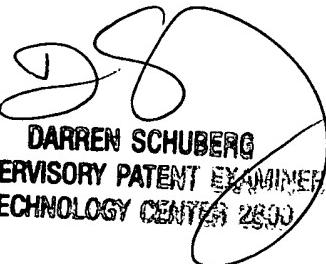
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on (703) 308-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3431 for regular communications and for After Final communications. There are RightFAX numbers and provide the fax sender with an auto-reply fax verifying receipt by the USPTO: Before-Final (703-872-9318) and After-Final (703-872-9319).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 305-8558.

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Art Unit: 2835

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Yean-Hsi Chang  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit: 2835  
July 1, 2003

  
DARREN SCHUBERG  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2835